

2013 Needs Assessment for Morgan County

Honorable Shelly Waters
Presiding District/Juvenile Judge
Morgan County Courthouse
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Decatur, Alabama 35601
Phone: 256-351-4765

Hon. Charles Langham	Mike Landrum	Hillary Blakely	Jackie Kinney
Hon. Brent Craig	Mayor Melvin Duran	Dixie Tyler	Cliff Booth
Alli Clark	Mayor Don Hall	Amy Hudson	Susan Goggins
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Murphy Brown	LaToya Brown	Sue Brantley	Victor Tucker
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Taylor Simmons	Missy Nichols	Jeff Simmons	
Mayor Don Kyle	Melissa Ross	Ana Franklin	
Chief Ed Taylor	Shari Barfield	Billy Hopkins	

Accomplishments

By Organization:

Department of Human Resources: Received full funding for Child Support Unit; DHR served as a pilot county for a program to provide more education for foster parents.

Morgan/Mental Health Center for NCA: Summer day treatment program for those with emotional and behavioral issues, on site DA programs at SOS; on-site counselors for all school systems in Morgan County; in-home counseling for children.

Decatur Youth Services: Pro-active in addressing gang issues; despite loss of funding for CTF parenthood program services continued; served 1800 families in 2012.

Volunteer Center: Friend to Friend assists with at risk children; despite loss of funding mentor services have continued; in partnership with DCS all volunteers will have a background check provided by the Volunteer Center for safety of the children.

Juvenile Drug Court: Added JPO to coordinate drug court; participants seeing a MH counselor.

Neighborhood Christian Center: Taught Smart Moves at Boys and Girls Club; assisted 4 youth with college textbook expenses; provided person to tutor at local school and BGC; provided 4 mentors to SOS; Summer Youth Art Work program continues.

Launch: Conducted Leadership Day regarding financial goals; weekly educational programs; job

shadowing opportunities in the field of engineering and veterinary; conducted ROPES classes; assisted in GED registration and preparation.

Decatur Career Center: Participated in the diversity summit for under/unemployed youth; Career Expo for local high school students in partnership with the Chamber; youth experience program that provided wages and work experience for the area youth.

Community Action Partnership: Part of the Starting Strong Pre-K Initiative; increased foster grandparent program in the schools; tracking INOW from OSR pre-k through public schools.

Decatur Heritage Christian Academy: DHCA Center for Excellence provides opportunities for elementary students to participate in after school programming open to all schools; provided counselor for CPC.

King James School: Program served 50 students that would otherwise not be in school; four levels of education are provided depending on the need of each student.

Morgan County Schools: Planned funding for FACT; Credit Alternatives allowing 12 students to graduate on time and 24 students to get back on track; Alabama HS graduation exam tutoring.

United Way: Expanded tutoring and mentoring programs for BGC as well as Big Sisters and Big Brothers and local schools.

Decatur City Schools: Increase school safety measures; increase in planning for college and careers readiness; after academic tutoring; drug court partnership; partnership with DYS.

Athens State: Continue to provide path for degrees in ECE.

Alabama Department of Public Health: 1) Provide immunization shots to children and help schools keep immunization records up to date. 2) The department went out to numerous schools this past year and gave out Tdap shots to students that needed them. 3) The Tobacco Prevention Program helped with the national youth survey on using tobacco products. 4) Started a 2 year trial (2013-2014) program thru WIC to help reduce childhood obesity.

Hartselle City Schools: Tutoring before school hours (7 am) for Alabama High School Graduation Exam; tutoring before school hours for students who need extra help with academic subjects. A newly developed program called ICU—Intensive Care Unit for students that make a zero on any major test.

Another new program is called Early Release Time for teachers and students. Details of these programs available at FranklinPenn@hcs.k12.al.us

Morgan County Child Advocacy Center: 1) Substantial increase in the number of therapy sessions provided to children/families of Morgan County. In FY 2010-2011 MCCAC provided 174 sessions in 2011-2012 MCCAC provided 574 sessions. 2) One of 15 CAC from the US to participate in a one year Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Learning Collaborative featuring trainers from Duke University and NCAC focusing on enhancing clinical skills.

Mental Health Association: 1) Child Safety Conference, 2) Red Ribbon Youth march, 3) Given the Opportunity Youth Grant, 4) ADHD Summer Camp, 5) 'I'm Thumbbody' self-esteem program, 6) 'Safe Dates' curriculum in middle & high schools, 6) Morgan County Youth Resource Guide website.

Boys & Girls Club - Program in Education (Tutoring), life skills training, Career Development for Teenagers, Be a Great Graduate Program for teens.

Decatur Morgan Hospital West Campus - The creative writing program has received national recognition being named a 'Bright Idea' by the Volunteer Hospital Association (VHA). VHA will be coming to Decatur Morgan West in July to Blueprint the program so it can be implemented in other psychiatric hospital settings.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

A firm education foundation for our youth

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Community Action: School Based Mentoring: Early Head Start/Head Start/Foster Grandparents/Family Literacy; Decatur, Hartselle & Morgan County Schools: Credit Recovery Program; Volunteer Center of Morgan County; PAT (Parents as Teachers), FACT (Family Assistance through Community Ties); Boys/Girls Club: Education/Career/Character Development/Leadership; The GAME Plan mentoring partnership SOS/Volunteer Center; King James School GED/tutoring/advocate for children; Morgan Decatur Chamber of Commerce Pre-K initiative; Decatur City Schools One to One program laptops for 5/6 grades; Reading through Rotary; Foster Grandparents tutoring in school systems; DSC Title 1 schools receiving tutoring; Athens State established non-certification early childhood program for Headstart teacher who need degrees; Decatur Youth Services: Adult classes for GED and tutoring; Calhoun Community College; SOS complete comprehensive education, GED and tutoring services; DCS restructuring classes for graduation; DCS partnering with Calhoun Community College for career/tech classes; JU Court began truancy court for parent & child; MD Minority Leaders supporting the pre-k initiative; Pre-K Initiative grant administered by United Way; Pre-K info at www.morganstartingstrong.com	Money to support improvement in quality early care; funding for tutoring, training for program leaders, pre-k and early education, programs to fill in the gap for families that do not meet the Federal Poverty guidelines for All Kids; additional classroom computers; more parent educators for parenting teens; funding to provide addition FACT programs in schools; the educational system and mental health providers; additional public transportation service routes and funding for CDL drivers; transportation for all agencies; awareness of the public of CPC programs (media coverage); involve Center for Developmentally Disabled (ages 0-3); coordinate businesses for job shadowing/employment/meetings with students; school counselor on the CPC (contact has been made with 2 school counselors); petition for variety of graduation tracks for the non-college bound student; qualified volunteers for mentoring; access the effect of OBama Care on all kids; need WIFI throughout all school systems; increase teaching level for GED classes; increase the use of 211

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

Identify businesses that will provide on the job training, job shadowing, speak at group meetings about the skills needed for employment.

Increase safety/security measures for schools.

Survey local and regional school systems to investigate alternatives available locally as well as regionally for non-traditional graduation options.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Encouraging Family Economics and Job Training and Parent Education

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Decatur Launch: GED and job search, pay for 2 years of college expenses, budgeting classes; Volunteer Center: Summer Youth Volunteer expose teenagers to non-profits to experience different types of employment that might be available to them; Neighborhood Christian Center: Life Skills and Life Healing Choices classes in jails and prison, free field trips to local business and budget classes; Morgan County Juvenile Court Parent Project and drug testing; Morgan County Sheriff and Community Corrections formed work release program; Big Brothers/Big Sisters match children with good role models to expose the child to good examples (can come up to age 15 without being assigned mentor); Community Action provides utility assistance both winter and summer; Decatur Youth Services teaches GED classes; Calhoun Community College - English as Second Language classes; Career Center matching 17-21 year olds with local company and supplementing the wages of the child in hopes the child will be hired permanently; PACT classes on relationship development; Athens State University established non-certification program for Head Start teachers who need degrees; Decatur Youth Services: Tutoring for adults and teenagers, free school supplies; Decatur C of C job listing site; NCC to begin Life Skill classes for JU Court; SMART MOVES alcohol, drug & tobacco program for youth; Chamber of Commerce acquired \$100,000 per year award from the local legislative delegation for Pre-K Initiative	Transportation or money for gas vouchers; Childcare so parents can attend classes and work; More male role models for young men; Central site for notification of job opening and opportunities; More business contacts for employment; Continue funding for child support services from DHR; To provide GED or high school graduates with scholarship information, grants, certification programs and alternatives available; Additional English as Second Language classes; Legislative delegation participation.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

Obtain a list of the Chamber of Commerce Members (Morgan/Decatur and Hartselle) for the purpose of engaging more employers for job training.

Create one internet site with all job listings by asking local employment agencies and state

employment offices for the information.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Prevention, intervention and treatment for mental health and substance abuse issues and establishment of a safe environment for children.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
MHA: Annual Child Safety Conference, ADHD summer camp; SOS/Juvenile Court: Trauma Prevention class, JU Drug Court, mental health and substance abuse screening; PACT: healthy relationship classes, BabyTalk; Child Advocacy Center: accepting referrals from the community and continue working with victims of abuse through the court system; Decatur Youth Services: provides recreational opportunities for low-income children; DHR: partner with JU Court to start Family Drug Court; ADPH: disseminated materials on tobacco use and 2nd hand smoke, spoke to schools and conducted tobacco survey, Hartselle City Schools: Mental Health counselor for at risk students K-12, drug testing; Decatur City Schools: adding 7 grade for fy13 of Life Skills class; bullying, drug testing at middle school/high school levels; King James School: drug counseling/find employment; MHCNCA: partner with JU court, provide counselors at school systems, provide child psychologists, PEACE Project (DV); Crisis Services Center: DV training to students, DV training for PACT classes, housing for women and children of DV, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes awareness; Hospice of the Valley: grief support, Camp Hope, Survivors of Suicide, counseling to tornado victims; AGAPE of North Alabama making adoption a viable alternative; Partnership between Decatur Youth Services, DPD and JU Court to focus on gang activity.	Funding for sexual harassment and bullying program; larger facility for Decatur Youth Services; let the community know what is available from the different agencies; resources to expand drug treatment services; more community awareness of the affect DV has on children; better awareness of street/synthetic drugs and their effects; continuation of the Morgan County Substance Abuse Network (MCSAN)

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

Identify funding for the above resources needed.

Expansion of mental health awareness and substance abuse prevention services for children and adolescents.